

various fields of chemical research, has had a tremendously positive impact on the quality of our health and lives and we all owe Don and his dedicated colleagues our utmost gratitude and appreciation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that on rollcall 397 I voted incorrectly and would like the RECORD to reflect that I had intended to vote "yea" on that rollcall vote.

INTRODUCTION OF OCEANS 21

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today signals the beginning of a new era in the protection and management of this Nation's largest public trust resource: our oceans. Along with the other bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania, TOM ALLEN of Maine, and CURT WELDON of Pennsylvania, I introduced OCEANS 21, a comprehensive oceans policy bill that answers the calls of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Our bill offers a comprehensive legislative solution to all of the crises documented in both oceans reports by establishing a strong national oceans policy that protects, maintains, and restores the health of marine ecosystems. This national policy will secure, for present and future generations, the full range of benefits of healthy marine ecosystems—a responsibility that I take quite seriously in my job of representing California's central coast, home to the Nation's largest national marine sanctuary.

The importance of this policy cannot be overstated, as we all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits the ocean once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, as well as opportunities for scientific inquiry, including medical discovery, and personal reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. This is a huge economic contribution to our gross domestic product, a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming. Our bill explicitly protects these returns.

Mr. Speaker, to implement the national oceans policy set forth in OCEANS 21, we provide four national standards which covered actions, defined as those carried out by the Federal Government or paid for in part by Federal funds, must be consistent with. These standards include a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof. These cornerstones of OCEANS 21 are founded on

the opinions of many marine scientists who have seen the health of marine ecosystems degrade over the past years. In fact, many scientists have been encouraging a restructuring of our ocean policy to reflect a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof for many years. For example, in a 1998 Science article, Paul Dayton, a preeminent marine scientist, asserted, "If society's environmental needs are to be protected so that future generations can also enjoy, learn, and profit from marine ecosystems, this legal burden of proof must be applied to our marine resources so that those hoping to exploit them must demonstrate no ecologically significant long-term changes." Today, I am proud to report back to the scientists, those who know our oceans better than most, that members of Congress have heard their calls and have responded.

As asserted in both the Pew and U.S. Commission Reports, our government needs a way to promote greater coordination among federal agencies whose actions may affect the oceans. Our bill responds to this issue by establishing a National Oceans Council comprised of secretaries of departments and heads of independent agencies. OCEANS 21 recommends that this Council be chaired by a National Oceans Advisor to the President. We recognized early on in our House Oceans Caucus leadership discussions that the best way to improve federal stewardship of our ocean resources was to offer a mechanism for bringing federal agencies together and to have an advisor to the President who can articulate the importance of the oceans. The National Oceans Council and the National Oceans Advisor are the solutions we present.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of the oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy over 30 years ago is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. Both the Pew and the U.S. Commission Reports clearly state that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach, and move away from our archaic approach based on political boundaries. This new ecosystem-based management approach will not be as easy as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality.

We have responded to the call for ecosystem-based management by including within OCEANS 21 a provision for Regional Ocean Councils, whose primary responsibility is to do ecosystem planning. We do comprehensive land use planning, so why not do comprehensive ocean planning? With a national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems and with Regional Ocean Councils charged with developing and implementing regional ocean ecosystem plans, we can turn back the tide of irresponsible ocean management.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also provides an "Organic Act" for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—an agency whose existence today is only reflected in an Executive Order. Our bill establishes NOAA in statute. However, unlike some of the other proposals currently being considered, we do not simply codify the status quo. This is because we recognize the status quo has failed and, if long-term ecological sustainability is

one of our goals, then we can no longer consider our ocean resources in a piecemeal fashion. OCEANS 21, therefore, restructures NOAA to better reflect the importance of ecosystem approaches.

Setting the stage for a long-term solution to the best possible management of our ocean resources, we also call for the President to submit recommendations for reorganizing Federal departments to establish a Department of Natural Resources. This way, all of our valuable natural resources can be managed together—reflecting our full acknowledgement of the connections between all parts of the natural world, from the oceans to the land to the air.

In addition to addressing the problems of oceans governance, OCEANS 21 also addresses the need for increased investments in marine science research, including ocean exploration, and marine education.

Mr. Speaker, to address the Pew and U.S. Commission recommendations surrounding the ocean science, our bill calls for a national strategy on ocean and coastal science and authorizes funding for marine ecosystems research. OCEANS 21 also creates a National Oceans Council Subcommittee to focus Federal investments on scientific areas especially requiring attention.

One of the most exciting aspects of OCEANS 21 is that it will help to instill a new marine stewardship ethic in all people—from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The bill does this in many ways: by explicitly describing education as one of NOAA's missions; by creating an interagency ocean science and coastal education program; by establishing an ocean science and technology scholarship program; and by creating a mass media campaign on how we are all dependent on healthy and productive oceans.

Mr. Speaker, OCEANS 21 is a comprehensive response to two comprehensive ocean reports that both deliver the same sad message: our oceans are in peril and we must act now. It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented, once-in-a-generation opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports both calling for immediate action to protect the oceans, this Congress has a responsibility to the American public to pass legislation that ensures future generations have the opportunity to benefit from healthy oceans. Since coming to Congress in 1993, I have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of our oceans and today, my dedication to protecting this Country's largest public trust resource is reflected in the introduction of OCEANS 21. I have worked with the bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus to introduce a bill that we all support and this bi-partisan effort should be celebrated.

The Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our oceans. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans by supporting the House Oceans Caucus Leadership's ocean policy bill. Our bill will not only bring U.S. ocean policy

into the 21st century, it will set the tone for a future in which our oceans remain vital components of our economy, our communities, and our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the U.S. Commission Report that encapsulates my thoughts on the urgency of considering OCEANS 21 this session:

"The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Hendrick Motorsports.

Hendrick Motorsports was started by my good friend Rick Hendrick in 1984 for the purpose of entering a single car into a single stock car race. Over the next twenty years, Hendrick Motorsports grew into the racing empire it is today, supporting four entries in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series and one entry in the Busch Series every week. Since its inception, Hendrick Motorsports teams have secured five NASCAR Winston Cup now Nextel Cup Championships, three NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series titles, and one NASCAR Busch Series crown, totaling more than 100 victories in twenty years of racing.

All Hendrick race cars are completely constructed at a 62-acre complex in my home of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Hendrick Motorsports provides employment to more than 400 Cabarrus County residents. They work not only in the production of racing cars and engines at the main complex but also in the many other daily operation activities of Hendrick Motorsports, such as managing HendrickMotorsports.com, maintaining the 15,000 square-foot Hendrick museum, marketing, public relations, sponsor services, licensing, and merchandising.

The success of Hendrick Motorsports on the race track has led to the opening of the Hendrick Automotive Group, which consists of nearly 60 car dealerships across the country. These dealerships contribute both to their local communities, through donations to local charities, and to the Nation as a whole by participating in The Hendrick Marrow Program.

Created in 1997, the Hendrick Marrow Program seeks to recruit donors to the National Marrow Donor Program and provides financial assistance to the patients who receive these life-saving transplants. As a direct result of the Hendrick Marrow Program's efforts, more than 60,000 potential volunteer donors have joined the National Marrow Donor Program Registry and more than \$500,000 have been used to assist patients with transplant-related costs, such as lodging and post-transplant prescriptions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to thank Hendrick Motorsports for making Cabarrus County "The Center of American Motorsports" and to congratulate them for twenty years of achievement both on and off the track.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GATEWAY TO DEMOCRACY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Gateway to Democracy Act, a bill designed to increase young voter registration and participation. As we enter another presidential election season we are once again reminded that in order for our democracy to function properly, people need to exercise their right to vote. Unfortunately, young people consistently fail to turn out to the polls on voting day. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2000 general election only 45.4 percent of 18 to 24 year olds were registered to vote and only 32.3 percent voted. The statistics for the 1998 general election were even more dismal, as 39.2 percent of such individuals were registered and a mere 16.6 percent actually went to the polls.

Studies have shown that people establish their voting behavior early in life. People who start voting between the ages of 18-24 are more likely to consistently participate in the election process for the rest of their lives. Thus it is in the best interest of the country to make it as easy as possible for the youth of our nation to go to the polls for the first time.

Young adults often fail to turn out on their first Election Day simply because, for the first time, they realize they have not registered to vote. Most states require registration prior to the election itself, so that it is too late to establish voter eligibility on Election Day. The Gateway to Democracy Act seeks to increase the number of young people who are eligible to vote as soon as they reach voting age.

In 1993, we passed The National Voter Registration Act so that people could register to vote when they applied for their motor vehicle driver's licenses. This law has increased voter registration and according to studies appears to increase youth voting. However, many states allow individuals to get their licenses years before they meet the age requirement for registration, but few states allow registration at that time if the person is not eighteen years old. Since 53.7 percent of seventeen year olds already had their motor vehicle licenses in 2002, we missed a valuable opportunity to register more than half of the people in that age group.

The Gateway to Democracy is a very simple idea. If you're 18 or older and you apply for a driver's license, you can also register to vote. But in most states, if you are under 18, you do not have the same opportunity to register to vote at the same time that you apply for a drivers license. Thus, a 16 or 17 year old typically must make a second trip to register after that person reaches the eligible age to vote. Often these young people don't bother to make this second trip until it is too late for them to participate in the first election for which they are eligible. This bill will allow people who are too young to vote to fill out all the paperwork necessary to register to vote when they get their drivers license. However, they won't be eligible to go to the polls until they reach the legal minimum voting age.

Some states already have successful pre-registration programs. For example, Connecticut, Florida and Maine allow people to

pre-register to vote at age 17, Georgia, Missouri, and Iowa allow people to pre-register at age 17 and a half and Hawaii allows people to preregister at age 16. These programs prove that pre-registration programs are simple and effective.

The Gateway to Democracy is a common-sense solution to the problem of getting young people registered in time for their first election. It allows young people to take care of the paperwork ahead of time so that they don't have anything standing in their way on Election Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESRD MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Modernization Act, which is designed to improve the quality of care and quality of life for the more than 3,000,000 Americans living with ESRD.

Patients with irreversible kidney failure, also known as ESRD, will die unless they receive a kidney transplant or undergo dialysis. Sadly, transplantation is limited due to the shortage of donor organs, so the vast majority of those with ESRD must undergo dialysis, three times a week, in dialysis centers or their homes.

Since Congress first agreed to provide Medicare benefits to patients with kidney disease, the number of Americans in need of dialysis treatments has increased exponentially. Today, the most common cause of kidney failure is diabetes. As rates of obesity and Type II diabetes increase, we face an even greater number of Americans at risk for kidney failure.

Because of Medicare, these patients are able to live longer and healthier lives. As important as the ESRD program is, it has not kept pace with the rest of Medicare. Last year we worked to modernize the Medicare program, yet we did not address some of the most pressing issues within the ESRD Program. The comprehensive bill that we introduce today seeks to resolve those problems.

The ESRD Modernization Act would establish educational programs to improve patient care and quality of life. Under this Act, patients with chronic kidney disease (the precursor to ESRD) would have access to new educational programs to learn more the factors that lead to kidney failure and how to prevent them. ESRD patients would have the opportunity to develop skills to help them manage their disease more effectively. The bill also seeks to help those patients able to continue working while receiving dialysis do so by improving the home dialysis benefit.

Additionally, the ESRD Modernization Act would ensure the financial stability of the Medicare ESRD program by providing a mechanism for annual updates to the composite rate. Currently, the ESRD Program is the only Medicare Prospective Payment System program that does not have a mechanism to update its payment rates. This Act will provide such a mechanism, consistent with MedPAC's recommendation in its 2000 Report to Congress.

It is time we fix this life-saving program. I urge my colleagues to support this important